Copy of Letter Written by Wife of Nelson Buck after he went Missing In Nebraska

Nelson Buck was a pioneer resident of Pontiac, Illinois, and he was a land surveyor. He got a government contract to survey in Nebraska. He recruited local Pontiac young men to go with him on this adventure.

The short version of this story is that Nelson Buck and his band of young men went missing, and were presumed to be killed by the Indians. The whole story is recounted in the 1878 Livingston County History Book (Illinois).

I discovered this letter when reviewing the archives of the Livington County (Illinois) Historical Society. It is shown on the following pages.

Dale C. Maley
President – Livingston County Historical Society
April 2024

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

Illinois State Reformatory

Pontiac, Ill.

Dr. Ryan
Chaplain

Nelson Burdick picture
within, look up his history in
relation to Pontiac, See County
History & Livingston County, Much
about his history, in John H. Ryans letter,
all that is known & his death by Indians.

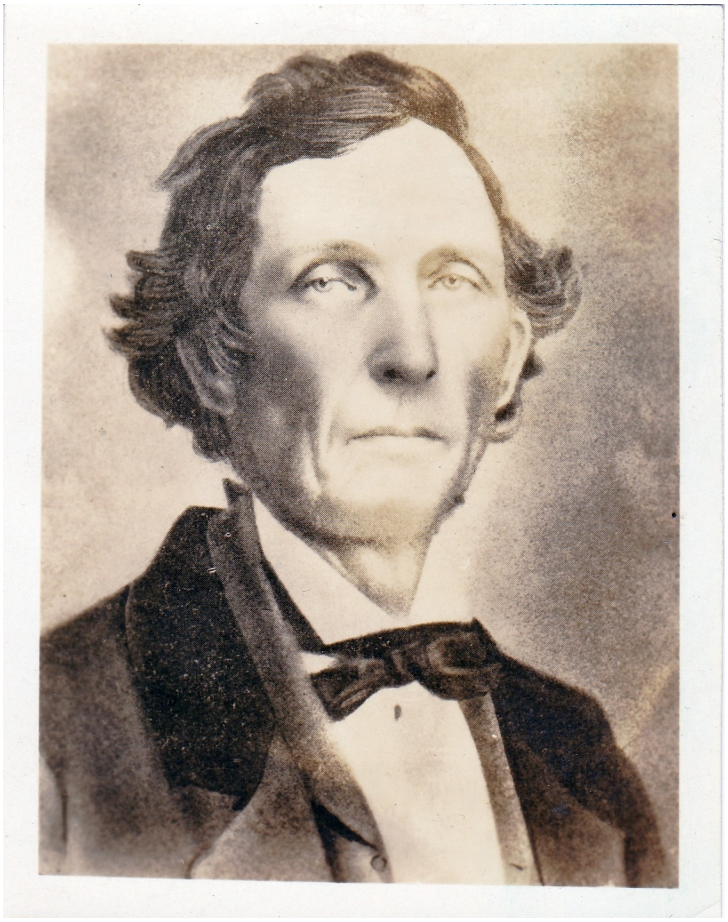
Copy of letter from Maria Buck (Mrs. Nelson Buck) written to stepdaughter Cordelia Buck Watson from some place in Nebraska during the search for the Nelson Buck party following the massacre. I have copied the town she wrote from as well as I could but can't make out what it was. Evidently at relatives who lived in Nebraska at that time tho. Mostly copied her spelling too but added capitals and periods.

Louise Algeo Crow.
Great granddaughter of
Nelson Buck.

2 brigs Logs Neb Oct the 2C

Dear child Cordelia:- We received your letter last evening. was glad to here from you. Willard got here, a week ago last Monday and wrote to you the same evening. Tuesday morning he started for Omaha, and last evening we got a letter from him from Fort McPherson. He says the trifods are not your fathers. There has nothing yet been found as we can learn that was your Fathers. Willard wrote of nothing new only his safe arrival there and his intentions to go out and search for his Father. He says not be uneasy about him if we do not hear from him in a week or two. He says there was some snow and still

snowing and the weather
quite cold. The scout that
was going out with him arrived
there the same night. The warm
weather now is favorable for them
I still have some hopes we
shall yet see him (your father)
come in yet but the Lord only
knows. Let us look to him for
support in all our afflictions
for his promise is unto us in the
sixth and yea in the seventh
he will not forsake us. Let us put
our trust in him our sure
support under all afflictions
for he doth not afflict willingly
but for our good.

I did not answer your letter
for I waited to learn something

more definite concerning
your Father, and did not
feel as if I could write. If we
hear anything positive I
will let you know. Give my
love to my sisters and all
enquiring friends. Tell them
and Mary Durfey I will write
them as soon as I can.
I shall come home as soon
as Willard returns if he
ascertains anything positive.
Your Uncles family are well.
All send their love to you.
So no more at present
Yours truly
Maria Buck